



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Cressman Fuel Break Expansion

**PROJECT LOCATION** This project is located in eastern Fresno County in the Pine Ridge area directly adjacent to Highway 168 and is further described as in Sections 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24 T10S R24E MDB&M

**COUNTY** Fresno

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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CAL FIRE – Fresno Kings Unit  
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This existing shaded fuel break is located on Cressman Road at the 5,000' level of the southern Sierra Nevada of eastern Fresno County near the community of Pine Ridge. The original projects 168 acres shall have maintenance performed. 72 additional acres shall have a majority of the understory brush removed and small diameter trees thinned to eliminate existing ladder fuels bringing the fuel breaks total acres to 240. The projects mixed conifer overstory consisting of 90% ponderosa pine has sustained between 50%-100% mortality and shall be removed to ensure fuel break viability. Maintenance of the existing 168 acres and installation of the new 72 acres shall be performed utilizing pile creation for burning by hand and by tractor, and mastication. Dead trees shall be felled. Slash and tree boles small enough in diameter or dry enough for immediate burning shall be pile burned or masticated. Tree boles too large or too green for immediate pile burning shall be decked, allowed to cure for approximately 1 year, and burned.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4 15301 (c) Existing Facilities  
15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption (state code section):**
- ☐ **Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)**
- ☐ **Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))**
- ☐ **Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))**

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. A biological assessment in consultation with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife which included a search of the California Natural Diversity Database, and subsequent field surveys were completed for the last project entry in 2010, and again for this entry early spring 2015. A Professional CALFIRE Archaeologist was consulted and there shall be no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. Burning will only be done on approved air quality burn days. The project as proposed shall not have a significant impact on the environment.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 02 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

1/27/16

Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection